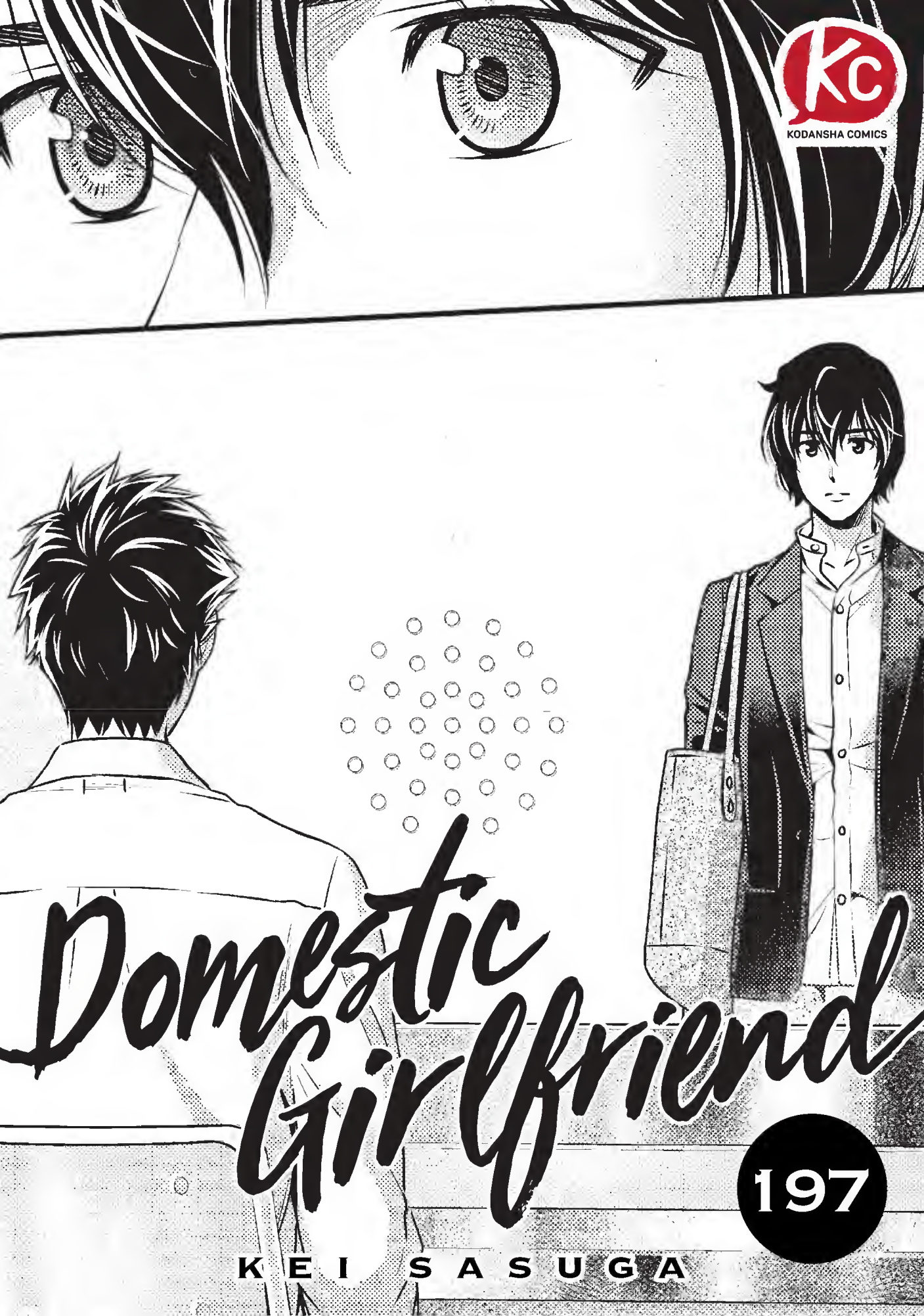
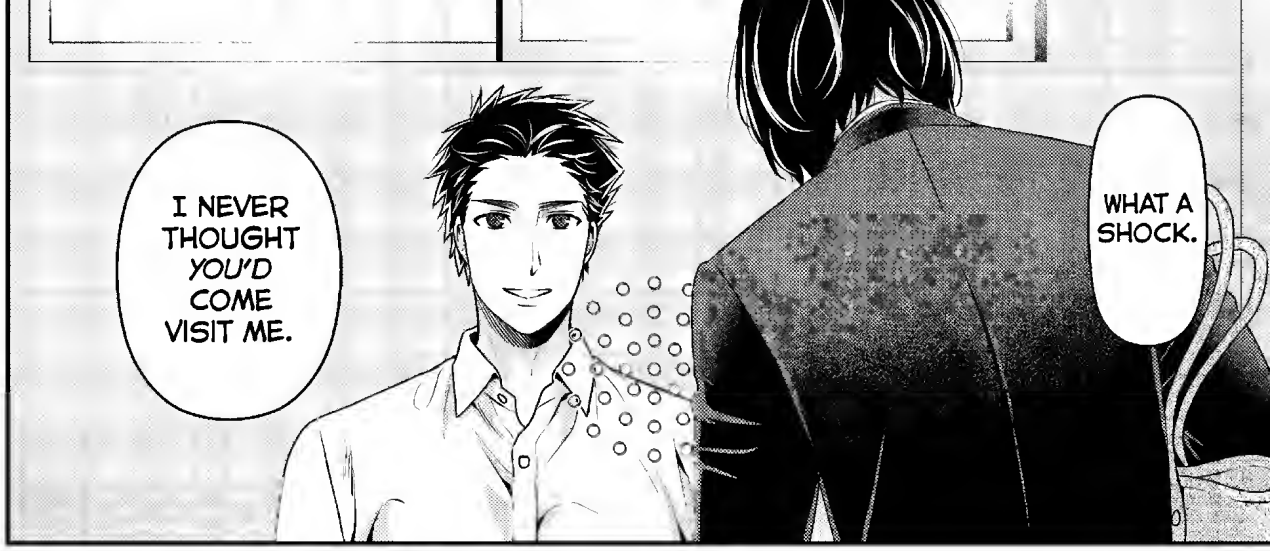
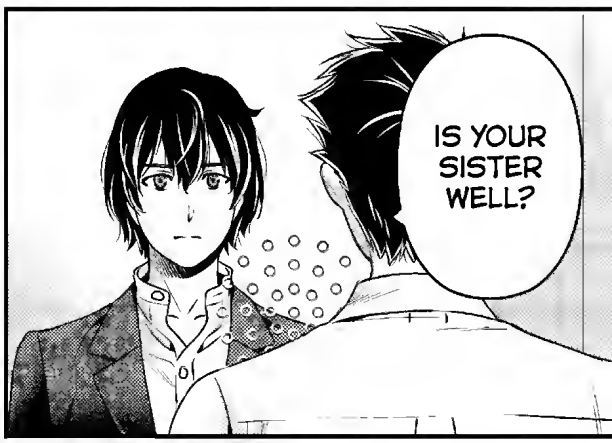

KC
KODANSHA COMICS
Domestic Girlfriend
197
KEI SASUGA

CHAPTER 197: PRISON VISIT

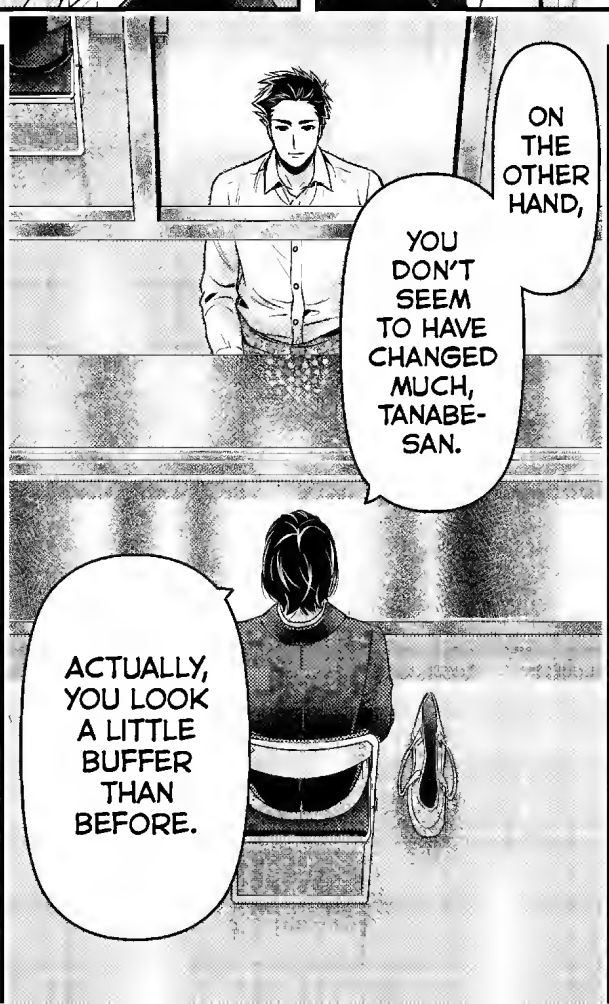
KEI SASUGA

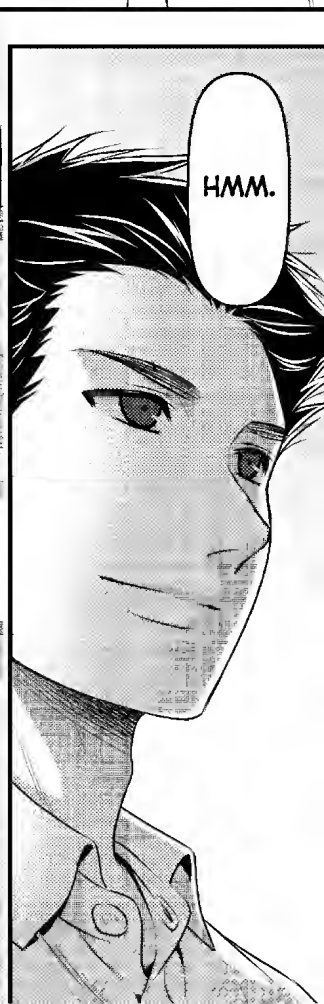

I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D COME VISIT ME.
WHAT A SHOCK.

SHE'S FINALLY HER OLD CHEERFUL SELF AGAIN.
YES.

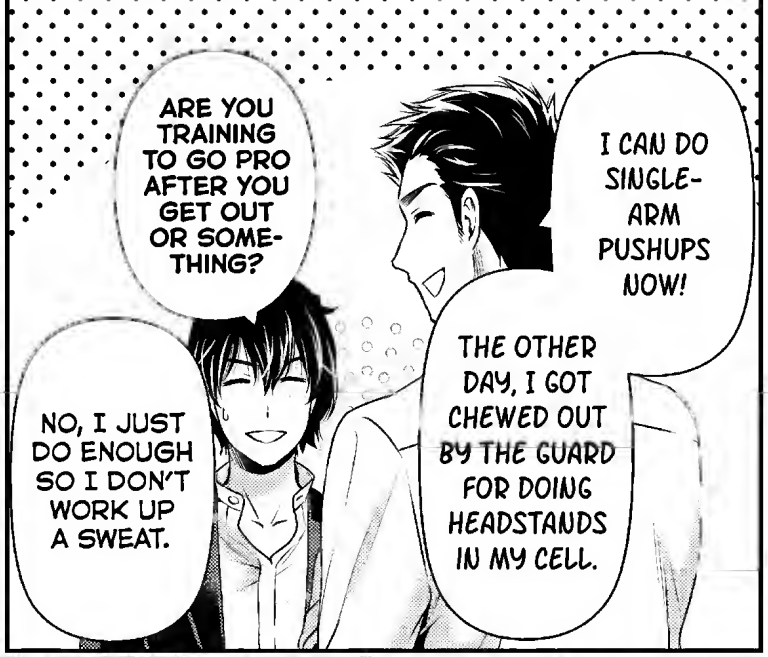

IS YOUR SISTER WELL?

I HAVE A LOT OF FREE TIME ON MY HANDS IN HERE.
I LIKE TO WORK OUT TO PRE-OCCUPY MYSELF.

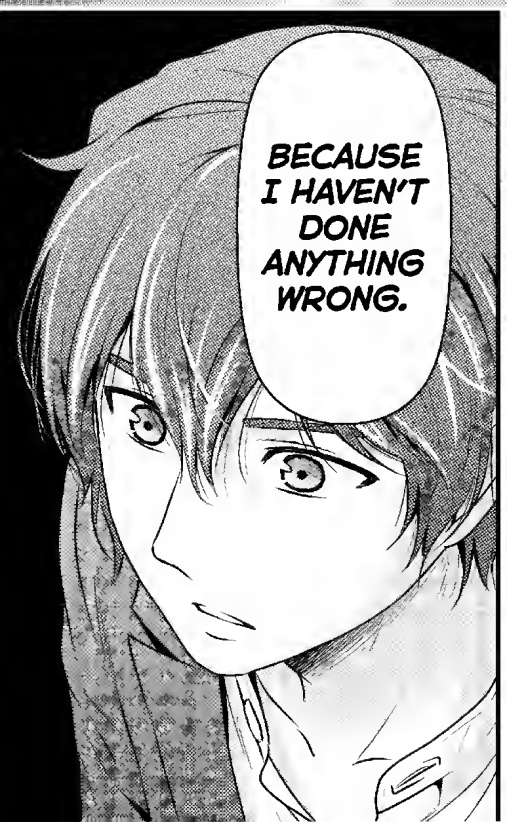

ON THE OTHER HAND,
YOU DON'T SEEM TO HAVE CHANGED MUCH, TANABE-SAN.
ACTUALLY, YOU LOOK A LITTLE BUFFER THAN BEFORE.


HMM.

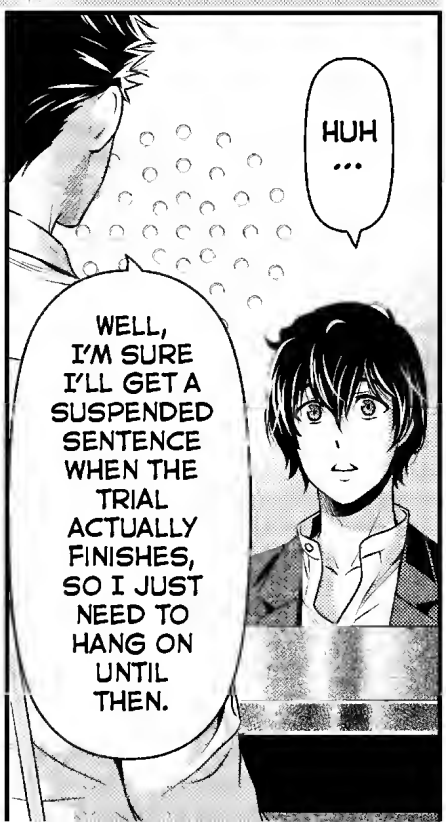
HM?
IS IT BAD IF YOU SWEAT?
WELL, I DON'T HAVE THE LUXURY OF DAILY BATHS.


ARE YOU TRAINING TO GO PRO AFTER YOU GET OUT OR SOMETHING?
I CAN DO SINGLE-ARM PUSHUPS NOW!
NO, I JUST DO ENOUGH SO I DON'T WORK UP A SWEAT.
THE OTHER DAY, I GOT CHEWED OUT BY THE GUARD FOR DOING HEADSTANDS IN MY CELL.

IT'S BEEN GETTING CHILLY AT NIGHT LATELY, RIGHT? GOTTA EXERCISE TO STAY WARM.
I OPT TO TAKE SHOWERS INSTEAD.
THERE IS A TUB TO SOAK IN, BUT SINCE THEY SHUFFLE DOZENS OF US IN AT ONCE, THE WATER GETS SO FILTHY THAT I'D RATHER NOT USE IT AT ALL.
I ONLY GET TO BATHE THREE DAYS A WEEK.


BECAUSE I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG.

ER... A SUSPENDED SENTENCE?
WHY WOULD THEY GIVE YOU ONE?


HUH...
WELL, I'M SURE I'LL GET A SUSPENDED SENTENCE WHEN THE TRIAL ACTUALLY FINISHES, SO I JUST NEED TO HANG ON UNTIL THEN.

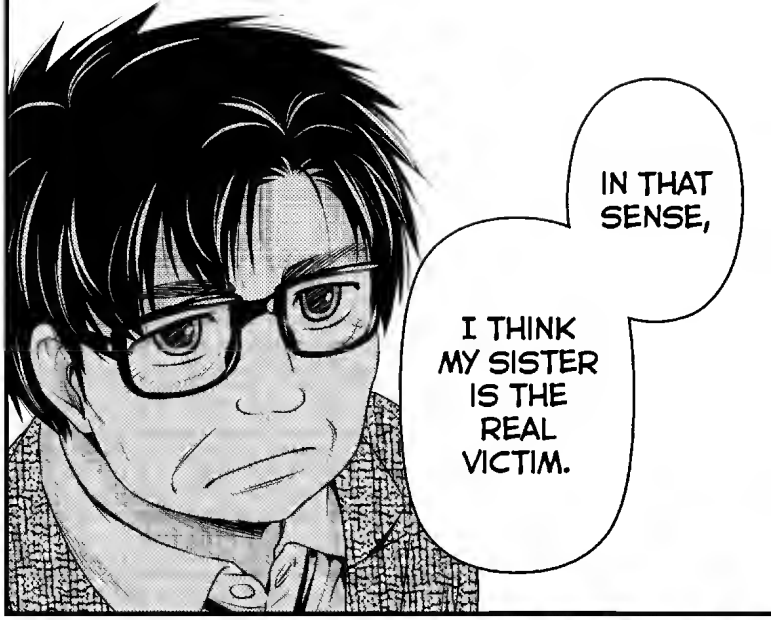
THE POLICE INTERRO-GATED ME ON AND ON ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT I HAD INTENT TO KILL,
BUT OF COURSE NOT!
HINA-SAN IS THE WOMAN I WANTED TO MARRY, AND *YOU'RE* HER LITTLE BROTHER.
I JUST WANTED TO SURPRISE HER A LITTLE AND TRY TO TALK THINGS OUT SINCE SHE WAS BEING SO STUBBORN.
THEN *YOU* CAME OUT OF NOWHERE AND FELL ON THE KNIFE.
...SO, YOU'RE SAYING IT'S *MY* FAULT?
YOU REFUSE TO ADMIT YOU COMMITTED A CRIME?
IT WASN'T A CRIME.
IT WAS AN *ACCI-DENT.*
IF YOU HADN'T JUMPED IN BACK THEN, I WOULDN'T BE IN HERE RIGHT NOW.
I SHOULDN'T BE LOCKED UP.
I'M NOT LIKE THE OTHER CRIMINALS HERE.

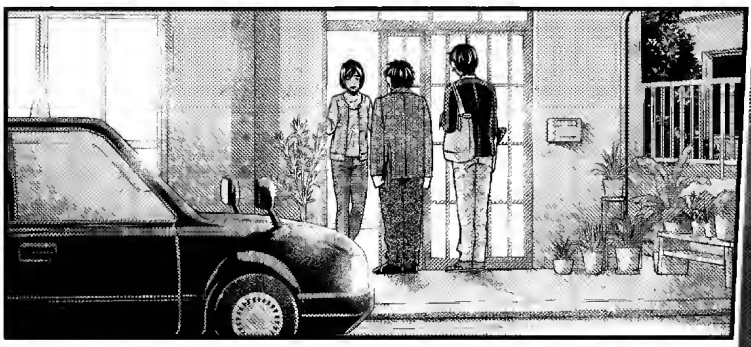
...
THEN, IN YOUR MIND,
PEOPLE WHO COMMIT CRIMES AND PEOPLE WHO DON'T...
...ARE JUST FUNDAMEN-TALLY DIFFERENT?
WELL, DUH.

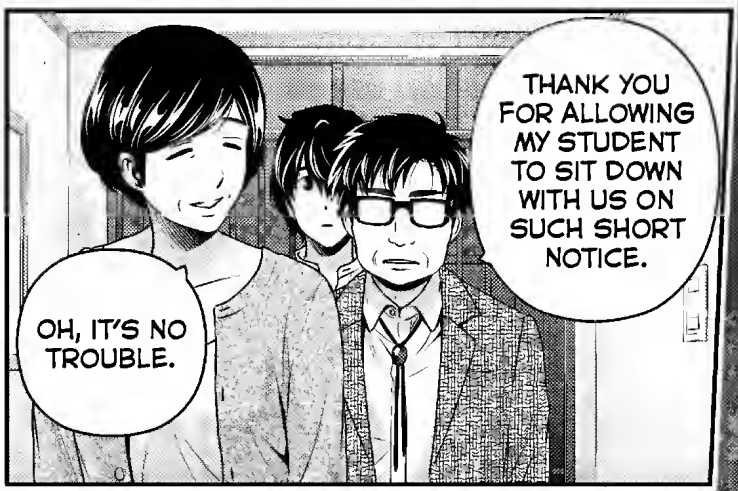
'SCUSE ME!
RATL
...HUH?
ARE YOU GOING SOME-WHERE, SENSEI?
OH... HEY, KID.
THEY LET YOU OUTTA THE HOSPITAL, HUH?
HOW'S YOUR GUT DOIN'?
GOOD. THE WOUND'S COM-PLETELY HEALED NOW.
WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?
OH, I CAN COME BACK ANOTHER TIME IF YOU'RE BUSY.
DEPENDS ON WHAT YOU NEED. LET'S HEAR IT.
I...
...WENT TO THE PRISON TODAY.

HE WAS SPEAKING CALMLY AND EVERY-THING.
I FIGURED HE'D BE A LITTLE MORE HAGGARD FROM SITTING IN A CELL ALL DAY,
BUT HE LOOKED PERFECTLY NORMAL.
HOW'D IT GO?
YEAH.
...
SO, YOU MET WITH HIM, HUH?
MR. PERP.
...I REALIZED HE HADN'T CHANGED AT ALL.
BUT...
...THE MORE HE TRIED TO JUSTIFY HIS ACTIONS...
I CAN'T FORGIVE HIM FOR ATTACK-ING MY SISTER,
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE HE WAS AFTER ME IN THE FIRST PLACE.
TO BE HONEST, I'M NOT REALLY SURE IF I *HATE* THE GUY.
GOOD QUES-TION.
AS THE ONE WHO GOT STABBED.
HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT WHAT HAP-PENED?
I GUESS PEOPLE LIKE HIM ARE JUST–
MMM ...
DO YOU HATE HIM? WERE YOU SCARED OF HIM?
HOW DO I FEEL?

...
I'M ON MY WAY TO GATHER SOME MATERIAL.
COME WITH ME.
HUH?
WHERE TO?


IN THAT SENSE,
I THINK MY SISTER IS THE REAL VICTIM.



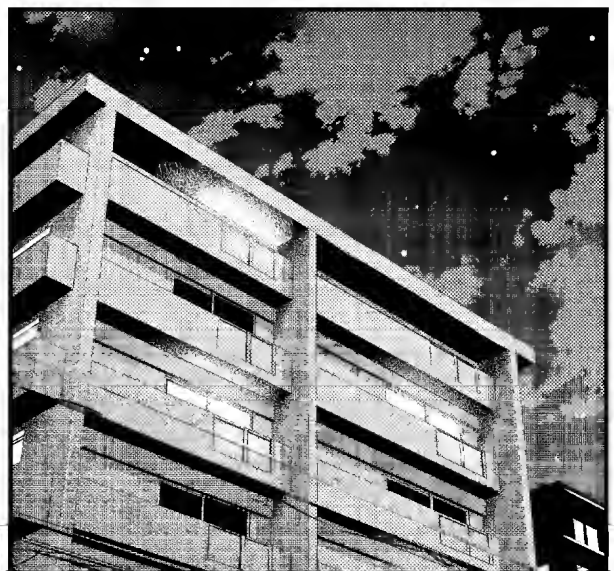

THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING MY STUDENT TO SIT DOWN WITH US ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE.
OH, IT'S NO TROUBLE.

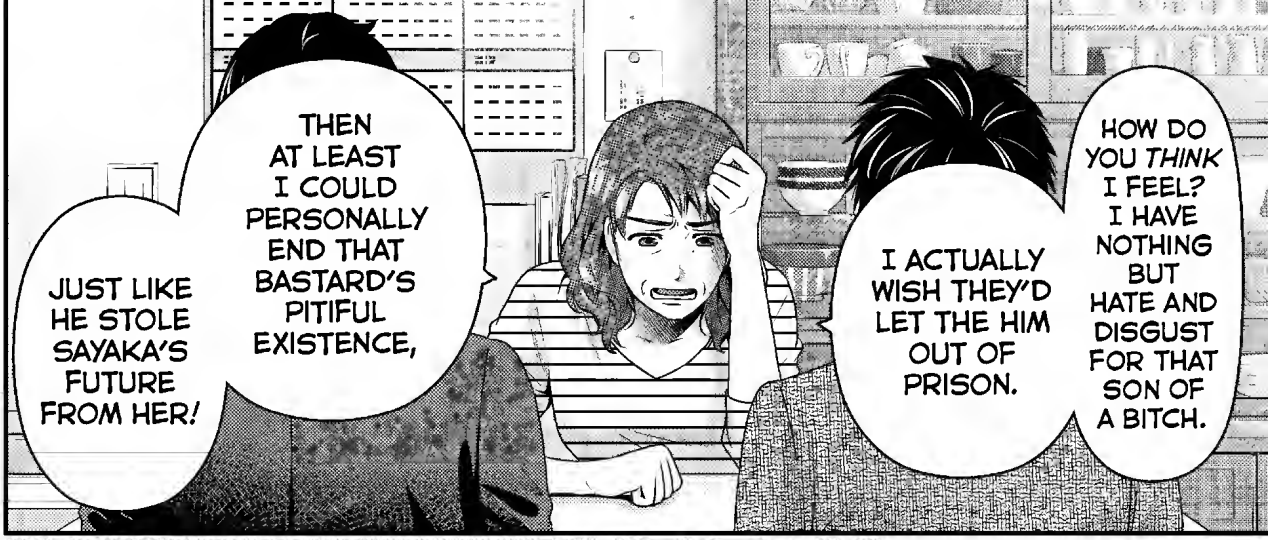
TO INTERVIEW BEREAVED FAMILIES.
I MENTIONED IT BEFORE, REMEMBER?

MY SON LOVED PEARS.
I OFFER HIM ONE EVERY DAY WHEN THEY'RE IN SEASON.
WE USED TO GO PEAR PICKING AS A FAMILY.
I HAVE SO MANY GOOD MEMORIES OF MY SON,
BUT WHENEVER I THINK ABOUT HIM, I CAN'T HELP BUT REMEMBER HIS KILLER'S FACE TOO.
ALL I WANT IS TO FORGET AND MOVE ON.

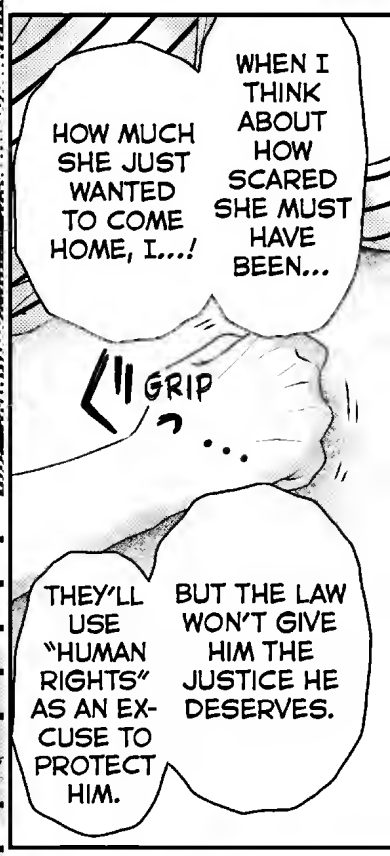
WE CAN NEVER FORGIVE THE KILLER.
BUT NO AMOUNT OF HATRED WILL BRING OUR SON BACK. IT WILL ONLY EAT AWAY AT OUR SOULS.
WE JUST WISH WE COULD WIPE THE KILLER FROM OUR MINDS, LIKE TURNING OFF THE TV.

HOW DO I FEEL ABOUT MY DAUGHTER'S KILLER?




HOW DO YOU *THINK* I FEEL? I HAVE NOTHING BUT HATE AND DISGUST FOR THAT SON OF A BITCH.
I ACTUALLY WISH THEY'D LET THE HIM OUT OF PRISON.
THEN AT LEAST I COULD PERSONALLY END THAT BASTARD'S PITIFUL EXISTENCE,
JUST LIKE HE STOLE SAYAKA'S FUTURE FROM HER!

WHY SHOULD THE MAN WHO TRAMPLED ON MY DAUGHTER'S RIGHTS...
...DE-SERVE ANY OF HIS OWN?!


WHEN I THINK ABOUT HOW SCARED SHE MUST HAVE BEEN...
HOW MUCH SHE JUST WANTED TO COME HOME, I...!
GRIP
BUT THE LAW WON'T GIVE HIM THE JUSTICE HE DESERVES.
THEY'LL USE "HUMAN RIGHTS" AS AN EX-CUSE TO PROTECT HIM.

BOTH FAMILIES LOST A CHILD IN ASSAULT AND ROBBERY CASES.
THNK

BUT I THINK ...
...I KNOW WHERE THEY'RE BOTH COMING FROM.
THEY HAD POLAR OPPOSITE OPINIONS,
THOUGHTS?
...
AND PART OF IT PROBABLY STEMS FROM SELF-DEFENSE INSTINCTS.
THEY LET SENSATION-ALISM AND CURIOSITY GET THE BETTER OF THEM,
WHENEVER AN ATROCITY HAPPENS, PEOPLE ALWAYS TAKE AN INTEREST IN THE *PERPETRA-TOR.*
YOU'LL JUST END UP WITH A SHALLOW PIECE.
OTHER-WISE,
HEY, SENSEI.
THINKING IN TERMS OF THE CRIME AS A WHOLE,
BUT WHERE THERE'S A PERP, THERE'S ALWAYS A VICTIM.
YOU HAVE TO GIVE EQUAL ATTENTION TO THE THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS OF *BOTH* SIDES.

HAVE YOU ...
...EVER THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT YOU'D DO...
...IF YOU FOUND YOURSELF ON EITHER SIDE?
IN MY CASE,
I DON'T THINK...
...THERE'D BE ANY MERCY EITHER WAY.

MIYABI!
WHAT'S WITH THE SCOWL?
ARE YOU WRITING A REPORT?
AH...
NO, IT'S NOTHING!
FWAP
YEAH? THEN WHY'RE YOU HIDING IT?
HEY! YUKA!
C'MOOON. I'M CURIOUS.
NOTEBOOK

I WAS WATCHING THIS SOAP OPERA THE OTHER NIGHT AND GOT CONFUSED ABOUT HOW EVERYONE WAS RELATED,
SO I THOUGHT I'D MAP THINGS OUT!
IT'S FOR A SHOW!
I...
UM...
家族
Family
姉
Older Sister
妹
Little Sis
Family / Little Bro
家族
弟
彼女
Girlfriend
WHAT'S THIS?
?
Little Sis
Girlfriend
家族
Family
I MEAN, THIS HAS TO BE IT, RIGHT?
BUT ISN'T IT KINDA OBVIOUS?
AHH. GOTCHA.
WHAAA?!
WHY ARE YOU SO SUR-PRISED?
姉
Older Sister
家族
Family
...THERE'S A CHANCE THAT THIS IS PART OF THE EQUATION TOO.
THAT'S USUALLY HOW THESE STORIES PLAY OUT.
WHAT?!
WELL, WHAT ELSE COULD IT BE?
ON TOP OF THAT...

SO, FUJII-KUN'S GIRLFRIEND IS...?
NO WAY...
AAH! WHAT A CLIFF-HANGER!
GOD, THIS SEASON'S PACKED WITH GREAT SOAPS.
MIND IF I TAKE A BATH FIRST?
MM...
GO FOR IT.
HEY ...

SURE, BUT WHAT FOR?
I'VE MADE UP MY MIND.
COULD YOU TEACH ME SOME ENGLISH, HINA-NEE?
JUST ENOUGH TO GET BY.
I WAS REALLY IFFY ABOUT IT,
BUT I THINK I'LL GO TO NEW YORK AFTER ALL.
!
THERE'S STILL A TON ON MY MIND,
BUT I FIGURE GOING WOULD PROBABLY BE THE BEST THING FOR MY FUTURE.
I SEE ...
IN THAT CASE, SURE, NO PROBLEM.
I KNOW HOW TORN YOU WERE ABOUT IT.
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT, THEN I'LL SUPPORT YOU.
UM...
ONE MORE THING.
I'LL TRY TO LOOK UP AS MANY COOKING TERMS AS I CAN FOR YOU.

SINCE I WON'T BE AROUND TO HELP NATSUO,
I KNOW YOU'LL PROBABLY DO STUFF FOR HIM IN MY PLACE.
LIKE COOKING, LAUNDRY, HELPING HIM BRAIN-STORM...
BUT ...
...JUST PLEASE DON'T DO ANY-THING...
THAT'D MAKE ME CRY, OKAY?
...
SOR-RY.
I KNOW ...
...I'M BEING REALLY SELFISH.
THEN ...
I JUST–

...IS IT OKAY IF I DO WHATEVER I CAN...
...AS AN OLDER SISTER?